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The Points Based System

Sponsorship & Tier 4

POINTS BASED SYSTEM
Overview

The most radical reworking of the immigration system in a generation

Consolidation of 80+ existing immigration routes into a clear and structured 5-tier system

Clear, transparent and impartial decision-making

A straightforward process for those wishing to work, train or study in the United Kingdom

Revised, simplified and objective policy criteria

Sponsorship and sponsor obligations

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POINTS BASED SYSTEM
The tier structure

Tier 1 – Highly skilled individuals to contribute to growth and productivity

Sponsorship tiers

Tier 2 – Skilled workers with a job offer

Tier 3 – Low skilled workers filling temporary labour shortages.
Currently indefinitely suspended

Tier 4 – Students

Tier 5 – Youth mobility and temporary worker

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Sponsorship

POINTS BASED SYSTEM
Sponsors

A fundamental principle of the Points Based System is that those benefiting from migration should be directly responsible for it

Migrants are assured that they are travelling to the UK to work or study with a recognised and reputable organisation

Sponsor licences are valid for 4 years. Licensed organisations apply for an allocation of Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) or Confirmation of Acceptance to Study (CAS)

Both CoS and CAS are virtual documents which contain a unique reference number (URN)

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Sponsorship

Under Tier 4, the sponsoring education provider must be licensed by UK Border Agency

We will licence only appropriately accredited institutions.

Ensure appropriate accreditation before you apply for a sponsor licence

To be sure you are registered at the go-live of Tier 4, you must apply to UK Border Agency no later than 2nd February 2009

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Tier 4 Specific Sponsor Requirements

In order to join the Sponsors' Register as Tier 4 Sponsor, Education Institutions will need to provide evidence that:

As a publicly funded institution they have been inspected or audited by The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Ofsted, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education (Scotland), Estyn, or the Education and Training Inspectorate; **or**

That as private schools providing education for children up to the age of 18 they have been inspected by Ofsted or the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI); **or**

That as private institutions they either:

- hold valid accreditation from an accreditation body approved by the UK Border Agency; **or**
- that they have passed an inspection by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).

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Tier 4

Which Route to Study?

	Over 6 months	Under 6 months
Over 16	General Student Visa Tier 4	Student Visitor visa Not PBS
Under 16	Child Student visa Tier 4	Child visitor visa Not PBS

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Tier 4 – Student Categories

There are 2 types of student categories:

- **General – for the majority of students**
- **Child Students – for those below 16 years old**

Under Tier 4, the maximum amount of leave that can be granted is 4 years

Points under Tier 4 – Pass mark 40	
Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)*	30
Maintenance Test	10

•However, this will be phased in

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POINTS BASED SYSTEM
Tier 4 – March 2009

Phase One

Become a licensed sponsor as soon as possible

Apply at
http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/

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POINTS BASED SYSTEM
Tier 4 – March 2009

Phase Two — From March 2009:

Process

- Offer letters (when used for Tier 4 applications) must include specified details including Sponsor Licence number
- Maintenance Test
- Qualifications to be included with application

Changes

- Student leave will be tied to their sponsoring institution
- All courses lead NQF Level 3 (or A2 of the European Common Framework for English language)
- Work-placement will need to contain at least 50% tuition and no more than 50% of the course length can be taken up by a work-placement.
- Remove 'Intentions' and credibility tests from visa process

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POINTS BASED SYSTEM
Tier 4 – March 2009

Phase Three — Autumn 2009

We will pilot the introduction of Confirmation of Acceptance to Study (CAS)

No decisions yet on how or who — we want to work with you to design the most effective pilot we can

We know we need to provide you with the IT tools you need to do the job

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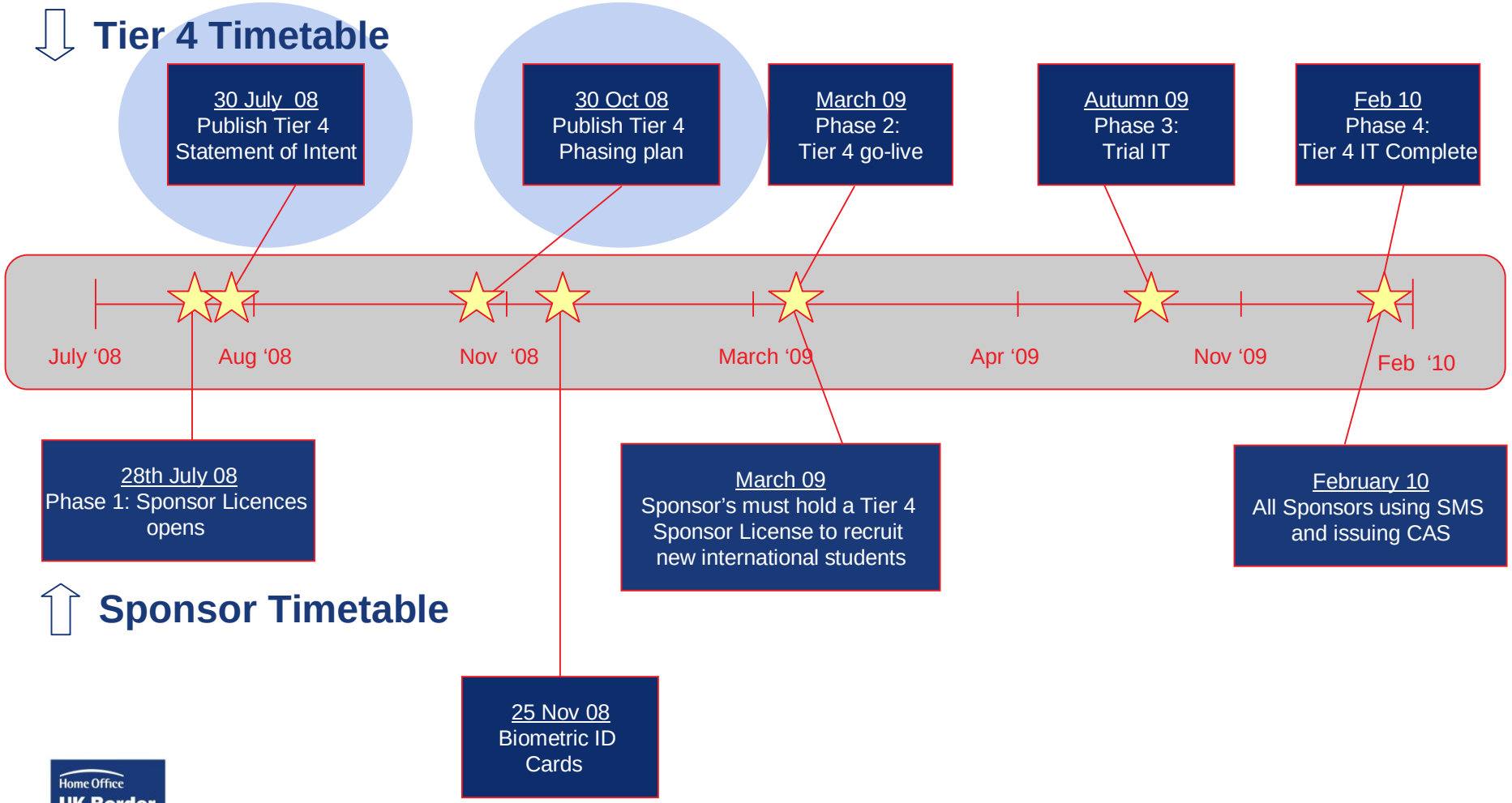
Phase Four — Early 2010

Full roll-out of the Sponsorship Management System and the use of Confirmation of Acceptance to Study (CAS)

Reporting Requirements commence for all licensed sponsors

Phased implementation of Tier 4: Timetable Overview



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